



For Immediate Release: 29 March 2011

Monsanto's Newest GM Crop: All aboard the Hindenburg!

Our food regulator FSANZ has decided that a new Monsanto GM crop represents no risk to human health. MADGE is alerting Australians to the fact that FSANZ has decided this without any reported investigation into the safety of Monsanto's latest genetic construct.

Monsanto has engineered the crop to produce pieces of its own genetic material in a virus form (double-stranded RNA). The plant then seems to be fooled into taking action against itself. The plant cells chop up this material into small pieces and use it to silence the plant's own natural genes.

What if some of these small pieces of dsRNA are actually perfect matches for some of our own genes? Will our own cells be fooled into self-silencing after eating material from this crop, in a sort of auto-immune response?

There is no indication that FSANZ has done anything to investigate this and other possibilities. We're not even sure they understand the science since they only cited one study on the topic, though there are thousands.

This form of genetic manipulation was only discovered in 1998, and the work was recognized to be useful with a Nobel prize in 2006. However the Codex Alimentarius safety assessment guidelines were written in 2003, and give no reference to this sort of genetic construct.

"Allowing this GM crop to enter our food supply is like strapping our entire society including our children into one of the first aircraft prototypes to be used in a trial" said Madeleine Love of MADGE.

"GM must emerge from the rubber stamping of FSANZ and into real public informed decision making. Our public health is at stake" said MADGE spokesperson Fran Murrell.

All aboard the Hindenburg says our food regulator.

Contact:	Madeleine Love	0447 762 284
	Fran Murrell	0401 407 944